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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

DATE: 30 May 2006 **ATTY DKT:** KNI-185-A **YOUR REF:** USSN 10/796,622

FILED: 09 March 2004 **APPLICANT:** Aoki et al.

TITLE: "CLEANING APPARATUS FOR NOZZLE"

TO (COMPANY): US Patent & Trademark Office, Art Unit 1744

ATTN: Examiner Shay L. Balsis **FROM:** Joseph P. Carrier

FAX NO. CALLED: (571) 273-8300 **NO. OF PAGES (Including this page):** 04

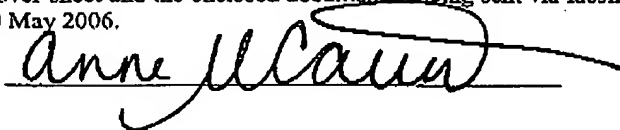
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MESSAGE: Please promptly acknowledge the receipt of the attached document, RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT, for entry into the application file.

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KNI-185-A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Aoki et al.
Serial Number: 10/796,622
Filing Date: 09 March 2004
Group Art Unit: 1744
Confirmation No. 2811
Examiner: Balsis, Shay L.
Title: **CLEANING APPARATUS FOR NOZZLE**

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement in the Office Action of May 15, 2006, applicant submits the following response:

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Claims 1-12 have been placed under a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121 in the above-identified Office Action.

SUMMARY OF THE EXAMINER'S POSITION

Specifically, in item 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner identified the following inventions:

I. Figure 1, drawn to a cleaning apparatus for a nozzle having at least one cylindrical long-length brush;

II. Figure 5, drawn to a cleaning apparatus for a nozzle having at least two cylindrical long-length brushes.

The Examiner states that inventions I and II are independent and distinct because Figure 5 requires two cylindrical brushes while Figure 1 does not and the Examiner also states that none of the current claims are generic to both species.

DISCUSSION

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement in the above-identified Office Action, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal thereof. Applicant respectfully suggests that the claims are drawn to different aspects of a single inventive concept, and should not be subject to restriction.

Still further, applicant respectfully further traverses the restriction requirement since, given the open language used in the claims directed to Figure 1, i.e. using the term "comprising", the claims are generic, contrary to the Examiner's assertion that there none of the claims are generic, and thus do encompass both embodiments.

Even if the Examiner remains convinced that the claims are not all drawn to a single inventive concept, applicant respectfully suggests that all of the pending claims are drawn to closely associated inventions.

Moreover, applicant respectfully points out that MPEP section 803 states that

"if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions."

Applicant respectfully suggests that the examination of the entire application would not place a serious burden on the Examiner. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the Restriction Requirement, and examine the species identified as Groups I and II together.

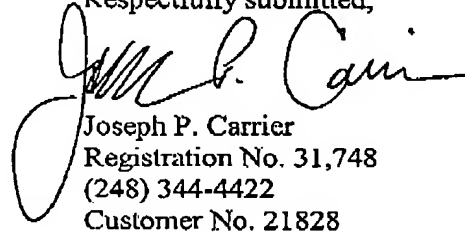
Therefore, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement.

However, notwithstanding the above, and in order to comply with Patent Office requirements, applicant elects, with traverse, the group identified by the Examiner as Species I.

It is applicant's understanding and belief that each of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 11 is drawn to the elected invention.

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May 30, 2006

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to Group Art Unit 3611 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, at the number (571) 273-8300 on May 30, 2006.


Anne M. Carrier